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(54) **Self-service passenger ticketing system.**

(57) A system is disclosed for issuing airline tickets without the intervention of any ticket agent. The system includes a plurality of electro-mechanical ticket terminals (10) in communication with a central computer. Each of the terminals has a card reader (35), a modem (31 and 31A), destination select buttons (37), and a printer (34). In operation, the card reader reads data from a magnetic strip (15) on a ticket purchaser's credit card (12) and the modem transmits signals identifying this credit card to the central computer. Subsequently, the modem receives signals from the central computer indicating good or bad credit. The push buttons are provided on the terminal to enable the purchaser to manually select his destination; and the printer prints a ticket to the selected destination conditional on the credit check signals received from the modem.

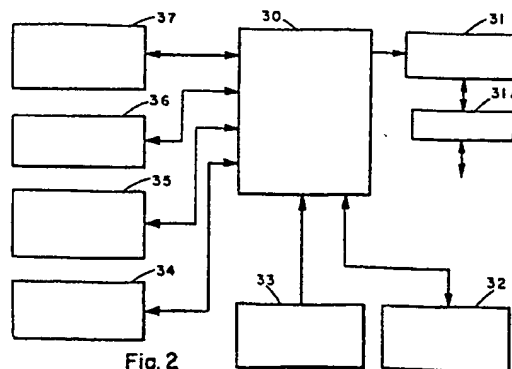


Fig. 2

EP 0 010 399 A1

SELF SERVICE PASSENGER TICKETING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to methods and systems for
5 issuing airline ticket to passengers. In the past, such
ticket issuing always required the intervention of a
ticket agent. One problem with this prior art system,
however, is that it is simply too slow. Consequently, long
lines of persons waiting for their ticket are a common
10 sight in any airline terminal.

The above problem is overcome in the disclosed
invention through the use of sophisticated electronic tech-
nology. This technology is combined to form a fully auto-
mated passenger ticketing system. No intervention by a
15 ticket agent is required. As a result, ticket issuing
bottlenecks are eliminated. The total time required to
issue one ticket is less than 10 seconds.

Further, the system is easy to use and can be
operated by all passengers. In the preferred embodiment
20 the terminal has a visual display that directs each
passenger through a sequence of steps to obtain his ticket.
Also in the preferred embodiment, various checks are made
based on information received from the travelers credit
card prior to the issuance of a ticket. These checks allow
25 only certain types of credit cards to be accepted, for
example.

Therefore, it is one object of the invention to pro-
vide an improved passenger ticketing system.

Another object of the invention is to provide a
30 passenger ticketing system that is fully automated.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These and other objects are accomplished in accordance with the invention by a system that includes a plurality of electro-mechanical ticket terminals in communication with a central computer. Each of the ticket terminals includes a credit card reader, a modem, a plurality of destination selection push buttons, and a printer. In operation, the ticket purchaser manually slides his credit card through the card reader. In response, the terminal transmits electronic signals via the modem to the central computer. There, the credit check is made and signals indicating the results of the check are transmitted back to the terminal. Simultaneously while this occurring, the purchaser is directed via a visual display to manually select a destination by means of the push buttons. Also, he is directed to select either a round trip ticket or a one way ticket. Then, dependent on whether the central computer reports the purchaser's credit as being good, the terminal calculates the fare and prints the ticket.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Preferred embodiments of the invention will best be understood by referring to the following detailed description when read in conjunction of the accompanying drawings wherein;

Figure 1 is a pictorial view of the disclosed ticket terminal in operation.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of the electronics within the terminal of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a flow chart of the major functions that are performed by the electronics of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a detailed block diagram of the central control unit in Figure 2.

5 Figure 5 is a detailed block diagram of the modem controller of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a detailed block diagram of the printer module of Figure 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

10 Referring now to Figure 1, a system for issuing airline tickets without the intervention of any ticket agent will be described in detail. The system includes a plurality of electro-mechanical ticket terminals, one of which is indicated via reference numeral 10. These
15 terminals are placed at locations that are convenient to potential ticket purchasers. To obtain a ticket, a purchaser 11 first slides his credit card 12 through a card reader 13. Reader 13 includes a slot 14 for guiding card 12 past the read heads. Various information is
20 read from a magnetic strip 15 on the card as it passes through the reader.

After this information is read from strip 15, the electronics within terminal 10 transmits signals that identify the credit card to a central computer. There,
25 a credit check is performed on the card. Subsequently, terminal 10 receives signals from the central computer indicating whether the credit is good or bad. Based on this information, and on other checks which terminal 10 performs, a ticket either will or will not be issued.
30 This checking sequence and the hardware for performing it will be described in greater detail in conjunction with the Figures 2 through 6.

As the above checks are being performed, passenger 11 selects a particular destination. A total of twenty-four destination buttons 16 are provided for this purpose. Each of the buttons 16 has a particular destination associated with it; and a destination is selected simply by depressing the corresponding button. Subsequently passenger 11 selects either a one way ticket or a round trip ticket. A pair of buttons 17 are provided for this purpose. Also, another push button 18 is provided which is marked "CANCEL". It allows the ticket purchaser to abort any ticket selection sequence and begin a new one.

Terminal 10 further includes three indicators 19a, 19b, and 19c which direct the ticket purchaser through the ticket selection sequence. In Figure 1, indicator 19a is illustrated as being turned on. It directs purchaser 11 to perform step number 1. Indicators 19b and 19c respectively direct the purchaser to perform steps 2 and 3.

Terminal 10 also operates to give purchaser 11 additional messages via a visual display 20. These messages include "wait for ticket" and "see ticket agent". The former message is given when each of the three manual steps is performed correctly and no reason for not issuing credit to the passenger is detected by the terminal. In that case, the actual ticket is dispensed through a slot 21. Conversely, the latter message is given when some reason for not issuing credit to the purchaser is detected by the terminal.

A block diagram of the electronics in terminal 10 will now be described in conjunction with Figure 2. As therein illustrated, these electronics includes a central control unit 30 which is in communication with and controls various special purpose modules 31 through 37. Control unit 30 provides all of the intelligence in the terminal. That is, modules 31 through 37 simply respond to commands from the central control unit.

Module 31 is a modem controller. It operates to provide a communication link between control unit 30 and the central computer through a modem 31a. Basically, in response to commands from control unit 30, module 31 sends messages to the central computer requesting a credit check on a particular credit card, and sends signals indicating the results of the check to unit 30.

Module 32 is a magnetic tape cassette recorder. It provides the means whereby control unit 31 stores a permanent record of each of the ticket dispensing transactions that are made. The cassette itself is removable from the ticket terminal. This allows various off line bookkeeping operations to be performed on the store data.

Module 33 includes a plurality of terminal identification switches. The setting of these switches uniquely define each terminal. For example, these switch settings indicates the city in which the terminal is located, the terminal location, and the terminal number.

Module 34 is a printer and ticket dispenser. Basically, it responds to commands from control unit 30 to print and dispense the airline tickets. These commands direct the printing on a character by character basis.

Module 35 is the credit card reader. The previously described manually operated slide through read mechanism 13 is part of this module. Basically, the module operates to sense any data recorded on magnetic strip 15 and to convert this data to logical signals for control unit 30 to sense and interpret.

The remaining modules 36 and 37 respectively are a timer module and a light/push button module. Timer module 36 operates to provide the hour, day, month, and year to control unit 30. This information is used, for example, to determine whether or not the credit card has expired. In comparison, module 37 provides an interface to the lights and switches on the terminal which were previously described in conjunction with Figure 1. Basically, the module forms a 6 bit code that indicates which of the switches has been depressed; and it responds to a 6 bit code from the control unit to illuminate various ones of the lights.

As was mentioned above, all of the intelligence in terminal 10 is included in the central control unit 30. This intelligence is indicated by the flow chart of Figure 3. First, control unit 30 initializes itself. This operation includes the resetting of various registers that are internal to the control unit; and also includes the reading of the information contained in the switches of module 33. Subsequently, control unit 30 illuminates light 19a. This indicates that the terminal is ready for a credit card to be passed through the card reader. Then the control unit waits for a signal from card reader module 35 indicating that a credit card has been read.

Upon the detection of a credit card, control unit 30 sends a command to timer module 36 which starts a ten second timer. This timer is set to prevent "silent deaths". If the ticket selection sequence is completed 5 within ten seconds, then the timer will be reset by the control unit; otherwise the timer will signal the control unit to terminate the ticket selection sequence.

Next, control unit 30 illuminates light 19b. This indicates that a destination should be selected. Then, 10 the control unit makes various status checks on the credit card that was read. These include a parity check, a check on the type of card, a check as to whether the card has expired, and a check on the number of transactions made at this terminal with the card. A parity error may 15 be caused by a variety of things such as a ticket purchaser inserting his credit card upside down in the card reader for example. In the event of such an error, control unit 30 displays a message in display 20 and returns to point "A" in the flow chart.

20 If no parity error occurs, then the card type check is performed. Each credit card has digits recorded on its magnetic strip that identify the card type. For example, the digits 37 identify an American Express card. These card type digits are compared with a predetermined 25 list that is stored within the control unit 30. By this means, the ticket terminal is able to selectively accept or reject particular card types. Also recorded on each credit card is a set of numbers identifying when the card expires. These numbers are compared by control unit 30 30 against the present date as received from timer module 36. By this means, expired credit cards are rejected without interrogating the central computer.

The number of transactions check operates to limit the maximum number of tickets that can be obtained from a ticket terminal at one time. For each ticket that the terminal issues, it stores the corresponding credit card number. Subsequently, when another ticket is requested, the list of previously used credit cards is interrogated. And if this list shows that five tickets were already obtained by that credit card, then a message "see ticket agent" is displayed via display 20, and control unit 30 returns to point A.

When all of the status checks are passed, control unit 30 directs modem controller 31 to send a message to the central processor. This message identifies of the credit card which is presently being operated on. Upon receipt of this message, the central processor performs various checks to determine whether the card holders credit is good or bad. It then sends signals indicating this determination back to modem controller 31.

This response from the central processor is interrogated by control unit 30. If the response indicates the card holder has bad credit, then the ticket selection process terminates. Conversely, if a good credit status is indicated, then control unit 30 monitors module 37 until a destination has been selected. When that occurs, the control module illuminates light 19c, which indicates that a one way or round trip ticket should be selected. After that selection is made, control unit 30 uses the destination select information and the round trip/one way information to calculate the fare. Pricing data to each of the various destinations is stored in a programmable ROM within the control unit.

Subsequently, control unit 30 directs printer module 34 to print a ticket. Also, the control unit directs the cassette recorder 32 to record on the cassette, all of the information that was printed on the ticket. This includes the date, destination, fare, ticket number, and credit card number.

All of the functions in Figure 3 are initiated and controlled by control unit 30. A detailed block diagram of this control unit will now be described in conjunction with Figure 4. Basically, the control unit is comprised of a micro-processor chip 50, a plurality of output ports 51 through 56, and a plurality of input ports 61 through 66. The output ports provide a means for micro-processor 50 to send commands to each of the previously described modules 31 through 37. Similarly, the input ports 61 through 66 provide a means for receiving information signals from modules 31 through 37. Figure 4 illustrates which ports connect to which modules.

Communication between processor 50 and the various ports is provided by means of an address bus 50a, a data bus 50b, and a control bus 50c. In one preferred embodiment, the address bus is sixteen bits wide, the data bus is eight bits wide, and the control bus is one bit wide. This embodiment may suitably be implemented with processor 50 being an 8080 type micro-processor.

Address bus 50a in conjunction with the control bus 50c provide the means for selecting each of the ports. To this end, address 50a is decoded by an address decoder 70. This decoder has various outputs 71, each of which connects to one input port and one output port. Selection

between an input port or an output port is made by signals on control bus 50c. For example, suppose the signals on address bus 50a are such that decoder 70 generates a select signal on lead 71a. Under these conditions, a high logic state of control bus 50c operates to select output port 51, whereas a low logic state of control bus 50c operates to select input port 61.

Data bus 50b is used to transmit data to the output ports and receive data from the input ports. This is achieved by constructing each of the output ports as a triggerable register, and by constructing each of the input ports as a register with logically selectable output. Preferably, both the input ports and the output ports are comprised of INTEL 8212 chips.

Also included in control unit 30 is a RAM 72 and a ROM 73. Basically, the RAM is used as a work area for micro-processor 50. In the preferred embodiment, it has a capacity of 512 bytes. By comparison, ROM 73 holds instructions for the micro-processor. These instructions are executed by micro-processor 50 in various sequences to carry out all of the functions that were previously described in conjunction with Figure 3. A listing of the instructions in ROM 73 is included herein as Table 1.

A portion of ROM 73 also stores various data which micro-processor 50 can interrogate as needed. For example, data includes pricing information to the various destinations. Preferably, the ROM chips that hold this data are packaged on a separate card or in socket holders which allow them to be easily changed.

Referring now to Figure 5, a detailed block diagram of modem module 31 will be described. This module includes an interface 80 which meets RS232 standards. Receivers 81a are provided for receiving signals from the RS232 interface and for converting them to T²L logic levels. Similarly, transmitters 81b are provided for converting T²L signals to RS232 levels. The actual modem to which this interface connects is a VADIC full duplex model 2430.

In operation, the central processor sequentially polls each ticket terminals to determine whether or not that terminal has a credit card to be checked. All messages that are received from interface 80 are first stored in a message storage RAM 82. Subsequently, after the message is received, it is sent to a message compare circuit 33. This circuit has a second input from a ROM 84. This ROM contains the format of various messages which the terminal is to recognize.

If the message in RAM 82 is determined by compare circuit 83 to be a poll message, then a signal indicating this fact is sent via a lead 85 to a timing and control circuit 86. In response, control circuit 86 sends a message back to the central processor. The exact message sent depends on whether or not the modem had previously received from control unit 30, the number of a credit card to be checked. This number is stored in a RAM 87 by means of signals from output port 56.

If RAM 87 has a credit card number stored therein, then this number is sent through a multiplexor 88 and through transmitters 81b to the remote processor. Conversely, if RAM 87 has no credit card number stored therein, then a canned message is read from ROM 89 and sent through multi-

plexor 88 and transmitters 81b, to the central processor. Timing signals for these transmissions are generated by control circuit 86 on leads 90.

When the central processor receives a credit card number to be checked, it responds with a message on interface 80. Again, this message is stored in the message RAM 82. Subsequently, the message in RAM 82 is sent to compare circuit 83 for comparison with the messages in ROM 84. This time, the received message will indicate either a good credit status or a bad credit status. Circuit 83 operates to generate signals on leads 91 indicating which message was received. These messages are subsequently interrogated through inport port 66 by microprocessor 50.

Referring now to Figure 6, details of the printer control module will be described. Basically, this module consists only of output port 54 and input port 64. Signals from output port 54 includes 7 hammer select signals 100, a head motor control signal 101, and a ticket advance signal 102. Similarly, signals to input port 64 consists of two end position sense signals 103. These signals are sent to/received from a Practical Automation printer having model number DMPT-6.

In operation, control unit 30 first monitors the end position signals to determine if the print head is in a position where printing can begin. One of the end position signals indicates that the print head is in an extreme left position and thus printing can begin from left to right; whereas the other signal indicates that the print head is in an extreme right position and printing can begin from right to left. Upon detection of one of the signals, the head motor control signal is sent. This causes the print head to move in a lateral direction in a predetermined speed.

Subsequently, in synchronization with this speed, various hammer select signals are sent to the printer. To print one character, these signals are held true for 600 milliseconds, and are turned off for 1000 milliseconds. All
5 of this timing and signal selection is accounted for by the microprocessor 80.

The above described character by character printing continues until one full line is printed. Subsequently, the ticket advance signal is sent to the printer. In
10 response, the ticket is moved to a new line. Then printing of that new line continues as described above. A total of four lines are printed on each ticket.

Card reader module 35, timer module 36, and tape cassette module 32 also have standardized interfaces
15 similar to that described above for the printer. Their control is implemented by sending signals to and receiving signals from the corresponding output and input ports. The actual card reader used in terminal 10 is the model 40 magnetic strip card reader that is manufactured by
20 American Magnetics Corporation. Similarly, the actual timer that is used in terminal 10 includes a semiconductor chip number 5880N that is manufactured by NSC Corporation. This chip gives the seconds, minutes, hours, and months. The year is set in by hand via several switches. And,
25 the actual tape cassette that is used in terminal 10 is a model 250B with option 214 that is manufactured by MFE Corporation. Further, details on the interface to each of these components is available from their respective manufacturers.

A preferred embodiment of the invention has now been described in detail. In addition, various changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the nature and spirit of the invention. Therefore,
5 it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to said details but is defined by the appended claims.

Address

[illegible]

TABLE 1 Continued

0010399

Address	Data
1005DE30	B1B1B1B1B1B21C341D505031AB7C200BA
1005FE00	25132305C2EA253A37413C323741FE0570
1005FE00	DA1106B13A3941F62852594157092305A5
10060300	C20C20C20D17E2FB7C2E705C9212E4011BR01
10061E00	40001F7E5C0FCD32061213230578FE002D
10062E00	C22106C9FE0ADA3D06F6F73DFC40C9FED6
10063E00	30C97EE6F00F2F2F2FCD320612137ZE595
09264E00	FCD32061213230578CA
10065700	FE00C24226C97FF0DCACAC0C0D23C25TB2
10066700	637C9AF223541AFC9C93A3241F540D33F
10067700	40001F7E5C0FCD32061213230578FE002D
10068700	71061604018813CDC815AFCD9B06CFCBD7
10069700	005C3FC08LB0017DA9B06D22047E580CAC9
1006A700	A10621034078E60F77DE201717DAF006EB
1006B700	D70047E648CAB70621024278171717172D
0806C700	E6F077C9DB00E52034
1006CF00	C20C106DB0047E0C20CAD2062121427800FE
1006DF00	02F77EB00E610C2E106DB0047F610CAE841
1006EF00	0262102407817171717E5F077C921004049
1006FF00	707B23B62C141237E23B632C241CDA20440
10070F00	0CB320CC9110040010702CBB4003A32417F
10071F00	3E57F323241D304210640CD9513CDAF076A
10072F00	2AF32074277F701CA4907FE22CA6007FECC
09073F00	003CA7707FE04CABE0705
10074800	C9CDD2062100407E23B632B341CD1A0C57
10075800	DB01E601C24907C9CDA1052102407F237E
10076800	005632BF41CD1A0CDD01E601C26007C9CDD4
10077800	0D2052100407E23B632C141CD320CD301C6
10078800	0E501027707C9CDA1052102407F237E
10079800	0C241CD320CDB01E601C26E07C9D001E69E
1007A800	022CAB707CDE513D001E602C2A12734DRF7
0727B800	001E601CAA507C913
1007BF00	001022006DC815C901A861CDE815C9010959E
1007CF00	03ACDC815C9DB0517171717E5F01747DA23
1007DF00	2720817DA292917DA240817DA2F08DE049E
1007EF00	021B34177CD020C11B4420601CD40061656
1007FF00	002CD7C13C917DA3403C31A08DB0421BCF5
10082F00	304177CD020C11F640C3F907DF0421ED417E
10081F00	7077CD020C11F640C3F907717DA4D0817EA74
07282F00	25408C34328D5047E
10083600	2021C34177CD020C11F640C3F907717DA4D0817EA74
10084600	20C44177CD4A2CC917DA7A28C56305F304BA
10085600	2021394177CDEA0C11B040C3F907717DA4D0817EA74
10086600	00A4177CD020C11F640C3F907717DA4D0817EA74
10087600	0D2AF28C9160221A717172042203244119D
10088600	00D3245F87535F19E3060321C5411A7713E3
10089600	202305020308CDA230CDB40CC921A7401117
0828A600	20C5410F03CD922AC903

TABLE 1 Continued

0010399

Address	Data
1208AE20DB2432C641326742CDA50CC93A3941F656	
:1208FE2001C3CF283A3941F5A1C3CF283A3941F627	
1208CF2042523941C93A3441F680D506FC77D32629	
:1208DE20C92140411602AFDE02171717DA4009177E	
1208FE20DAF3091717DABE0917DAA90917DA390992	
:1208FE2036201E00D5CFD70AD1CD990A7EFE41C233	
12090E2019093A3941F680323941C93A3941F6026C	
:07291E20323941DB05E6F070	
100925203229413E74E3053F04D3253A4041323233	
:1029350041D304C936211E03C3020917DAC20317B5	
12094520F53A3941E022C25070F1C9F1D29409D507	
:10295520CDA20811A74021AD400E03CD900ACDB11F	
120965200A3E90D305323341D12134417FE5F377EF	
:12097520D3062139417EF624772129414EDB05E670	
12098520F201773A3341F626F305E61FF305C93E3A	
:0929952050D30532334121AD407D	
12099E203620233620235022C30E0917DAF429C0FC	
:1009AF00221F06C3020936231E09C3020917DAD115	
1009BE000917DAFA0936241E0CC3022936251E0782	
:1209CE20C3020917DADC0936261E12C322093627BE	
1009DE001E15C3020917FA330A17DA130A17EA01D2	
:1009EE000A17DAFA0936281E18C3020936291E1B01	
1209FF00C3020917DA2C0A362A1E1EC32209362F49	
:290A0F001E21C3020917DA290AAE	
100A170017DA220A362C1E24C30209362D1E27C3D5	
:100A270020917DA340A362F1E2AC30209362F1E88	
100A37002E0507090017DA680A17DA560A17DA4FC0	
:100A47000A36301E30C3020936311E33C302091776	
120A5700DA612A36321E30C3020936331E39052283	
:100A67000917DA7E0A17DA770A36341E3CC30209F9	
120A770036351E3FC3020917DA590A36361E342C3C6	
:390A8700220936371E45C30209FD	
100A90001A771E230F0603900A06032101171911F1	
:102AA000CF40CD402521DF4411CF420606CD51153E	
120A2000C921A4400127200DC87E002FA72750C824	
:100AC0009227F5E0FF6327723F1D2D20A0601C354	
100A2000370A0620C3370A0620321501719E331AA65	
:100AE000401A77132305C2E10AC92158421E0736A0	
170AF00041567AF620323441D3067A17571DCA0789	
:090B200023C01E0BC3F20A1E0727	

Address	Data
1210AA00	00D3107C2F2303FF120603CDA0F13175B
1210BA00	1B0603CDD3103C2F230603CDD310750308
1210CA00	2CDA02F0602CDD0312C091A77231B05C2D856
1210DA00	10C9364423364923364F25365623C921AD
1210FA00	0440F2311B2400C0BCDF12F000FCDFA7F7
1210FA00	F0DC2EE10C911BC400E021AFE44CA10F0
12110A00	11132CC325111E2104403E139147CA2039
07111A00	110200CDFA0F41A6
1011120C	D31020305CDFA0F11AD401A5322FE22F1
12113120	CA5D1111EB4079835FD23F111441CDD3F9
10114120	123F1091DA5511C250110628C35711200D
10115120	00CC357110626CDA0FC36A110607CDA63
13116120	30FCEDC1200C0DCDFA0F111E4079835F2066
10117100	00D2761114410000CDD310C98E129712FF
10118100	0212D911DE117311F811ED11F211F711EB
38119100	FC11011206128D127F
10119900	8D128F128D128D128F128D122B1210124D
1011A900	15121A121F12241229122E123312381272
1011B900	3D12421247124C12511255125F12601222
1011C900	65126A126F12741279127E1283128812D2
1011D900	B7D1C9C5BE5181FFA191B1C9C5C3A1C68F
1011E900	E9D1C1C184FFA4948CED1D1D1F2C6C9P1
1011F900	00C9A99FE0D0C8C4C3B6C9C9C9B6BCAC9C1
09120900	C9B19FA4C4A49FB6C99C
10121200	00C9C9FFA201C1C1E9CA2C1C1FFC1C0C983
10122200	00C9FFC0C30C8C8FFAFC9C1C1FFFF8888884D
10123200	00FFC1C1FFC1C1C0FFC1C182C1A29488FF69
10124200	091819131FFFA298A0FFFF8688F0FFE249
10125200	00C1C1C1FEB0C8C8C8FFBFC2C5C1FF1FA46
10126200	00CC8FFA6C9C9C9B2C0C0FFC0C0FES18137
10127200	051FFF08C333CF2FF829C82FFE3948E9451
09128200	03F3F06886788F0E1D1C98E
10129300	05C3A06080608060908684E3308029C3E46
10129B00	0803B40D3023F32D318D3293E41322E411B
1012AF00	300DB281F2A0C000E20DB09EC20C0C0C1
1012BB00	120B7C37C235127837C2B5121DC2B11273
1012CB00	205F420C20AFL315D520C18F133A2241D502
1012DB00	00D08C9219940363A2336452336472384
1012EB00	02364065C2355207705C2EF123E40324283
0712FB00	41CD2D3ECDDE513EE
10130220	0E20813C37C023E2EF305CD9C1202220214
10131220	0D30C07D212133CE1D300CD5A13D90927F2
10132220	0A1F13C05A13C05A13DFA027DA1F173304
10133200	41D300CD5A13CD9C120000000C1E313C1E2
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TABLE 1 cont'd.

0010399

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TABLE 1 cont'd

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:12163200237FBE022D167A3CC22D1604CA1B1C02608	
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CLAIMS

1. A system for issuing airline tickets without the
2 intervention of any ticket agent, said system being com-
3 prised of a plurality of electro-mechanical ticket
4 terminals, wherein each of said ticket terminals includes:
5 credit card reader means for reading data from a
6 magnetic strip on a ticket purchaser's credit card as the
7 card is slid by said purchaser through said reader means;
8 modem means for transmitting signals identifying
9 said credit card to a central computer for a credit check
10 and for receiving signals from said central computer
11 indicating good credit or bad credit;
12 destination selection means for enabling a person
13 to manually select a destination and
14 vending means for printing and dispensing a ticket
15 to said selected destination conditional on said signals
16 received from said central computer indicating good
17 credit.
2. A system according to Claim 1 wherein each of said
2 ticket terminals further includes microprocessor means for
3 sequentially controlling the operation of said card reader
4 means, said modem means, said destination selection means,
5 and said vending means.

3. A system according to Claim 2 wherein each of said
2 ticket terminals further includes a data bus and an
address bus from said micro processor to a plurality of
4 selectively loadable output registers, with said output
register connected to respective ones of card reader
6 means, modem means, destination selection means, and
vending means for controlling their operation.

4. A system according to Claim 3 wherein said desti-
2 nation selection means further includes means for manually
selecting a one way ticket or a round trip ticket.

5. A system according to Claim 3 wherein each of said
2 ticket terminal means further includes visual display means
for directing a person desiring a ticket through a sequence
4 of steps to manually select a ticket by means and said
destination selection means.

6. A system according to Claim 3 and further including
2 means for recording data representative of each of said
ticket dispensing transactions on a magnetic tape cassette.

7. A method of issuing airline tickets without the
2 intervention of any ticket agent, said method including
the steps of;
- 4 providing an electro-mechanical ticket terminal at
a location convenient to potential ticket purchasers;
- 6 allowing a purchaser to manually slide his credit
card through a hand operated credit card reader on said
8 terminals;
- transmitting electronic signals, identifying said
10 credit card, from said terminal to a central computer for
a credit check on said card, and receiving electronic
12 signals therefrom indicating good or bad credit;
- allowing said purchaser to manually select a desti-
14 nation via destination selection buttons on said terminal;
and
- 16 electro-mechanically printing and dispensing a
ticket at said terminal to said selected destination
18 conditional on said signals received from said central
computer indicating good credit.
8. A method according to Claim 7 and further including
2 the step of allowing said purchaser to manually select a
round trip or one way ticket via said destination selection
4 buttons.

9. A method according to Claim 7 and further
2 including the step of directing said purchaser with dis-
played instructions, to perform said manual steps in a
4 predetermined sequence.

10. A method according to Claim 7 and further
2 including the step of recording data representative of
each ticket dispensing transaction on a magnetic tape
4 cassette in said ticket terminal.

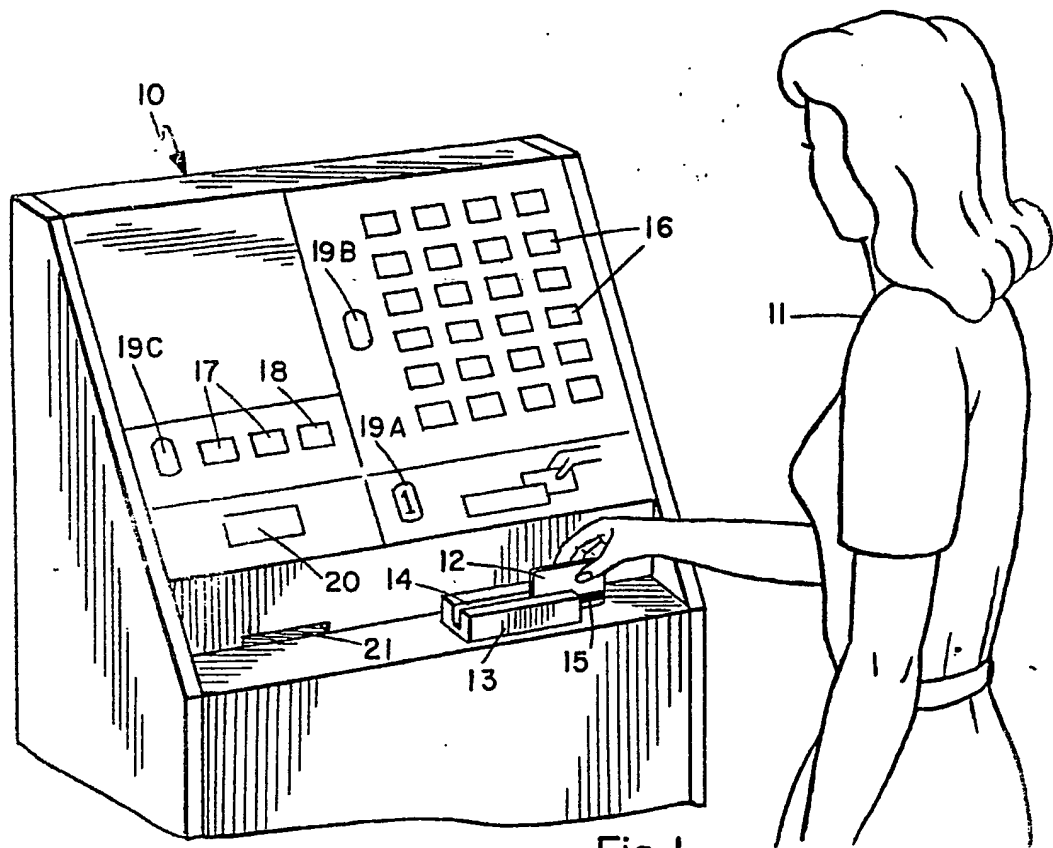


Fig. 1

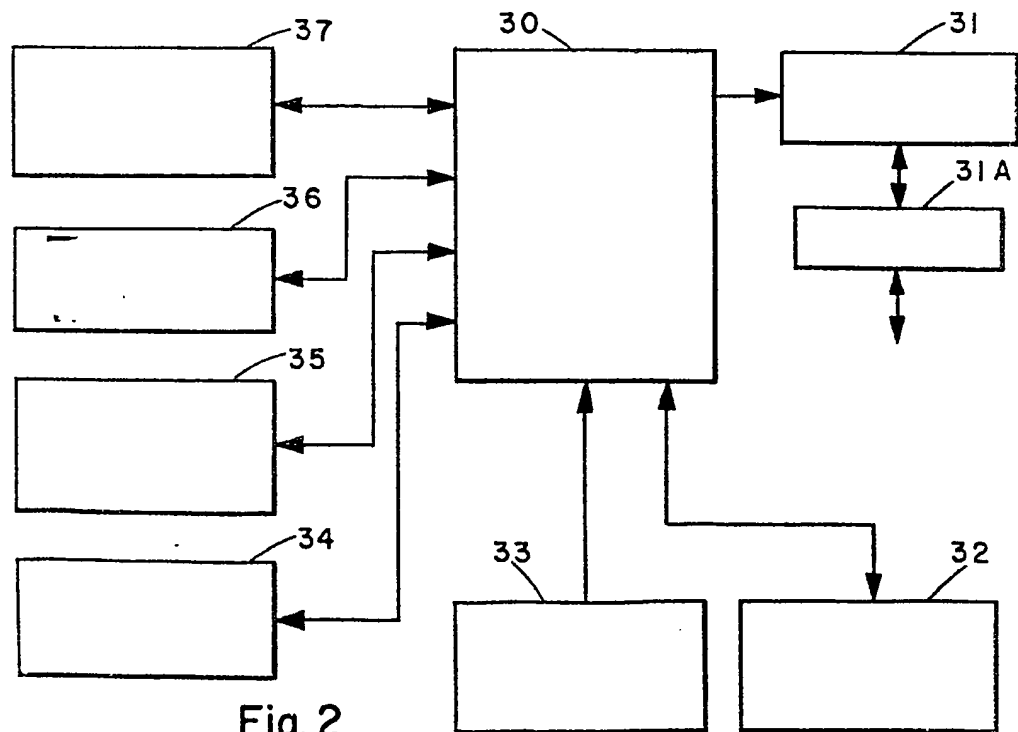
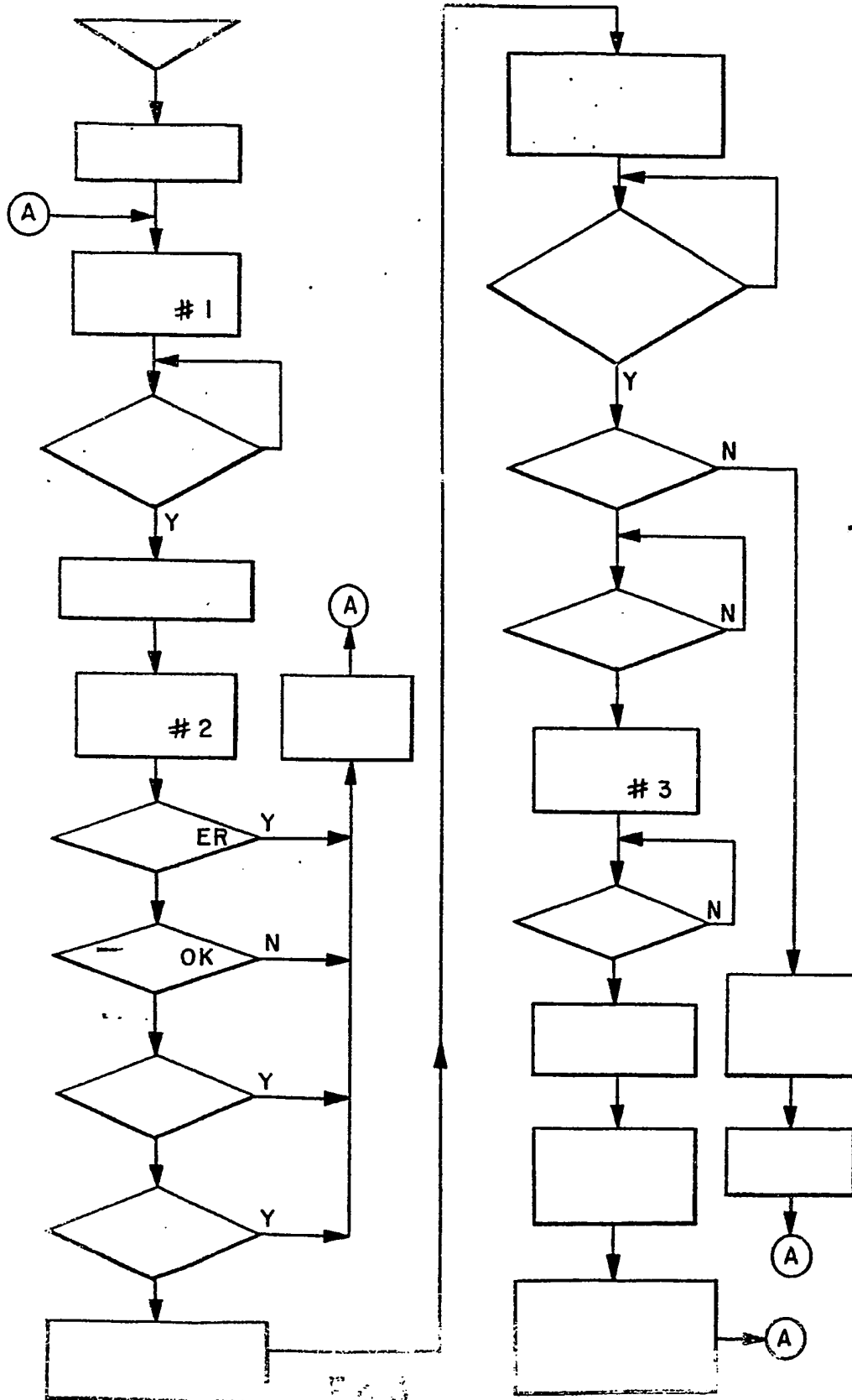


Fig. 2



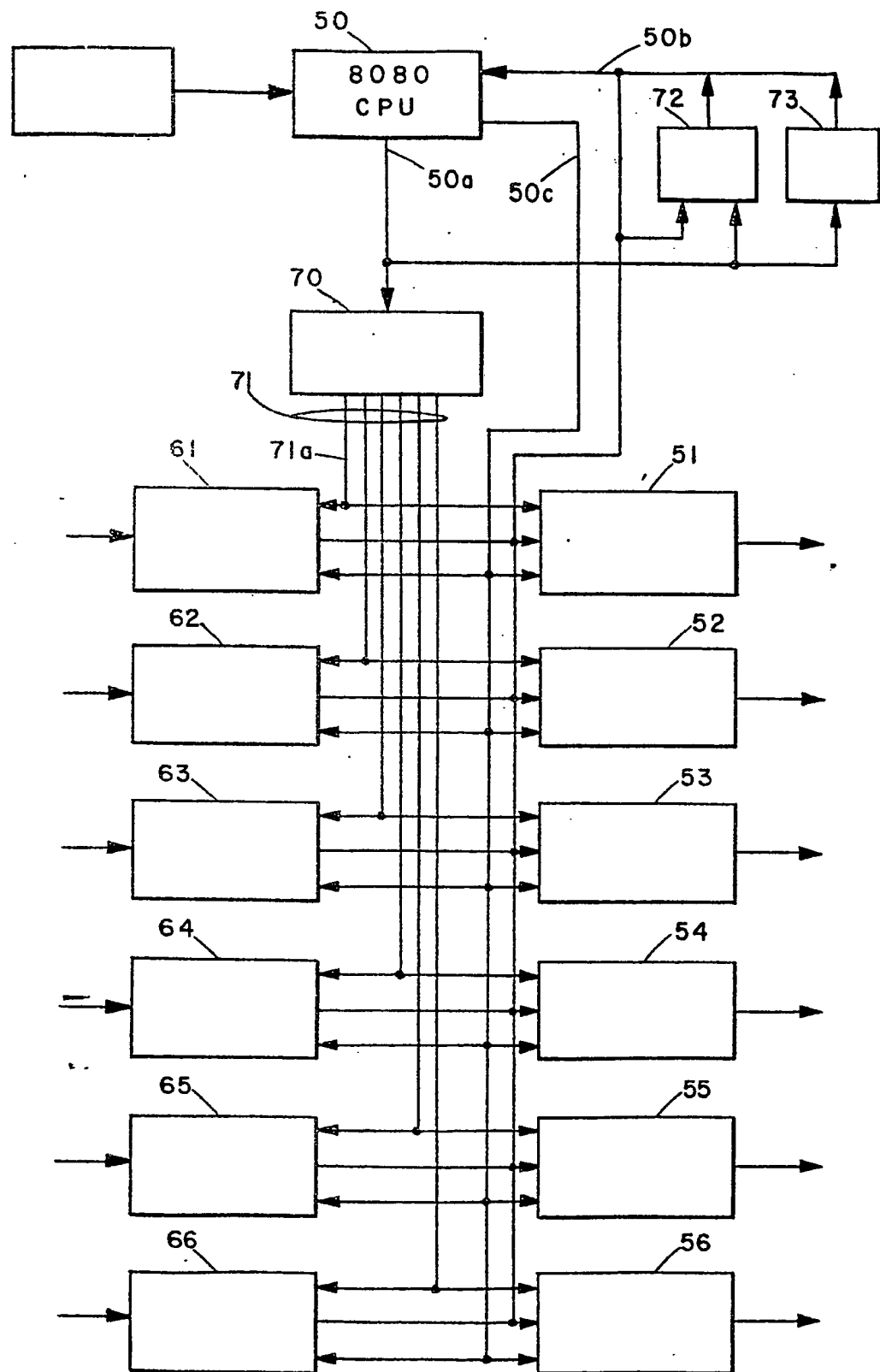


Fig. 4

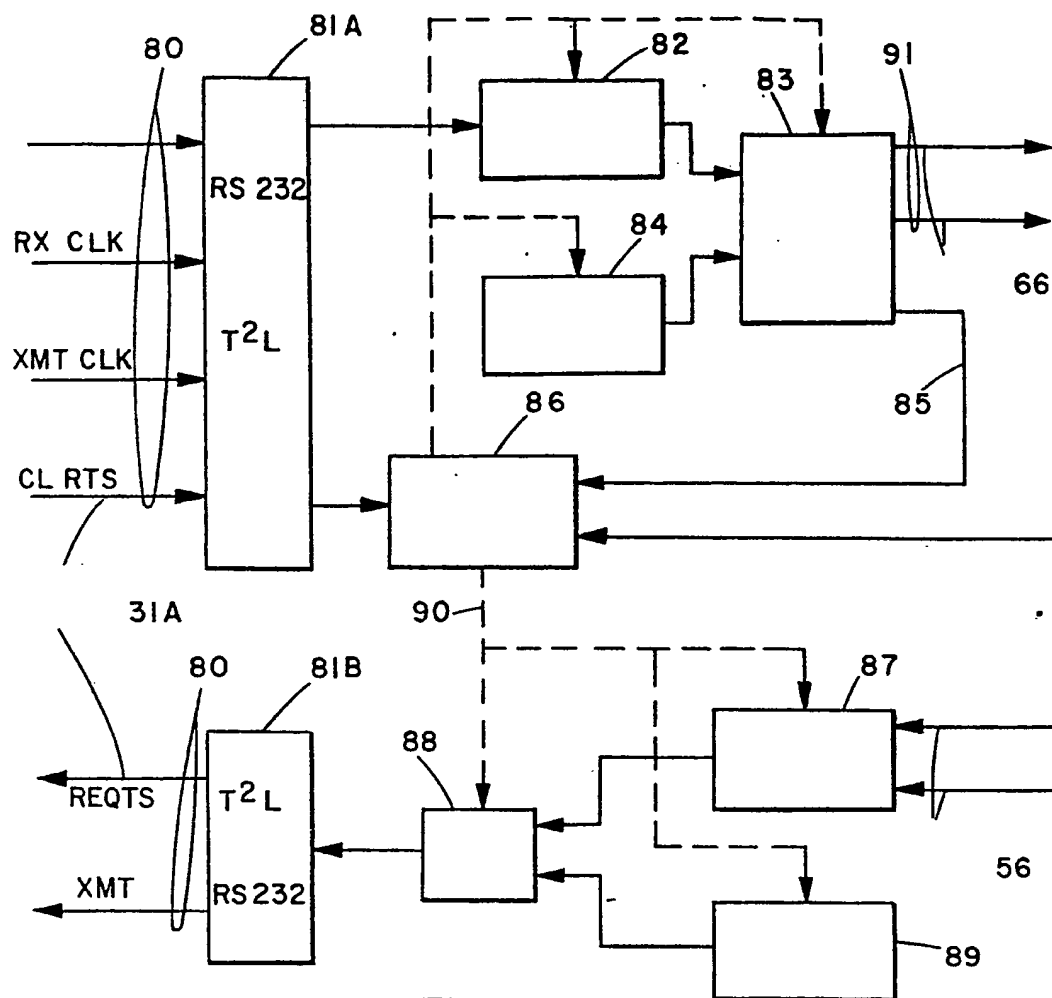


Fig. 5

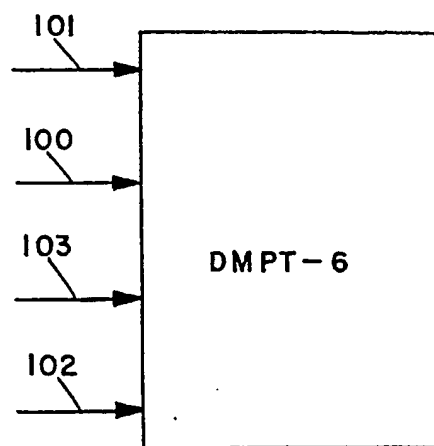


Fig. 6



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0010399
Application number
EP 79 30 2154

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<u>US - A - 3 445 633</u> (V.A. RATNER) * Column 2, lines 12-47; figures and claims *	1,6,7,10	G 07 F 17/42 7/02 15/26
	--		
	<u>US - A - 3 958 103</u> (A. OKA) * Abstract; figures 1,3; column 2, lines 1-47 *	1,4,7,8	
	--		
	ELECTRONICS INTERNATIONAL, vol. 50, no. 8, 14th April 1977, pages 44-46 "Machines to vend airline tickets" * Complete document *	1,5,7,9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3) G 07 F 7/00 7/02 7/08 7/10 17/42 G 07 B 1/00 1/02 1/04 1/06 5/00 5/04 5/06 5/08 G 06 F 15/26 G 07 E 17/14
	--		
	<u>GB - A - 1 371 062</u> (BELL PUNCH) * Page 6, lines 48-101; figures 2,3,10 *	1-3	
	--		
P	<u>FR - A - 2 385 158</u> (ELECTRONIQUE M. DASSAULT) * Claims and figure *	1,2,5,7,9	
	--		
A	<u>US - A - 3 622 995</u> (V.C. DILKS) * Abstract; figures *	1	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons
	--		
A	<u>US - A - 3 750 103</u> (D.R. ANGUS) * Abstract; figures *	1,3,7	
	--		
	.	.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 21-01-1980	Examiner DAVID



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010399

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	<u>US - A - 3 212 615 (M.W. HELLAR)</u> * Column 4, lines 57-70; figure -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)

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